

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 2018

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As negotiations over the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) move toward a conclusion, we write to highlight dairy-related NAFTA objectives that are vital to the survival of U.S. dairy farms. Specifically, we would like to call your attention to Canada's unfair Class 7 pricing program and the need to eliminate tariffs that Canada has long imposed on U.S. dairy.

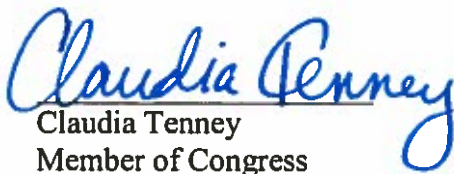
Agriculture is a vital part of New York's economy. With nearly 5,000 family-owned dairy farms and more than 600,000 cows, New York produces roughly seven percent of the U.S. milk supply on an annual basis—the third largest dairy producing state in the nation. Our state is also home to 36,000 family farms that produce food for our state and nation. However, uneven and unfair trade practices have caused our farmers—particularly our dairy farmers—undue stress and hardships contributing to the closure of many family-owned dairy farms in New York. As NAFTA negotiations progress toward a conclusion, we urge you to prioritize the elimination of Canada's Class 7 pricing program and dairy tariffs. This will ensure our farmers in New York can compete on a level playing field.

The Canadian Class 7 milk pricing scheme has caused severe pain to the hard-working but struggling dairy farmers that we represent. In the brief time that this program has been in effect, it has led to the expansion of Canadian milk production and the increased dumping of excess milk production onto the global markets which has driven global prices down to artificially low levels. Dairy farmers not only have to contend with Class 7, under NAFTA they have long been denied full access to ship into Canada. These trade distorting and harmful policies have severely impacted farms in our districts.

The President and his Administration have shown their commitment to fighting back against unfair trade practices that our trading partners have used to harm American dairy farmers and manufacturers. Trade has helped the dairy industry create many jobs, but the lack of new trade opportunities and the making of new barriers and trade distorting policies is preventing new jobs from being created here in the United States and in our districts.

As NAFTA talks wrap-up, we look forward to working collaboratively with you to protect our dairy farmers, the backbone of New York's economy and local economies throughout the nation. We look forward to ensuring these hard-working men and women are protected under any renegotiation.

Sincerely,


Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress


John J. Faso
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



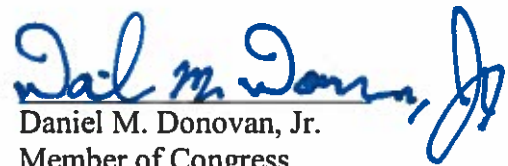
Elise Stefanik
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Peter King
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Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
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